Early Piety Exemplified,

IN THE

LIFE and DEATH

OF

MARY WHITING,

A Faithful Handmaid of the Lord; who Departed this Life, in the 22th Year of her Age.

Written by her Brother, *JOHN WHITING.*
With Two of her EPISTLES to FRIENDS.

The Diligent Hand maketh Rich, but the Sluggard is Cloathed with Rags. As in the outward, so in the inward; let him Read, that can Understand.

MARY WHITING, Daughter of *John Whiting*, and *Mary* his Wife, of *Nayllsey* in the County of *Somerset*; was Born the latter end of the 9th Month, in that *Memorable Year*, 1654. when the Lord was pleased in his Infinite Love, to send his Messengers and Ministers (whom he had Raised up in the North of *England*, and sent forth to Preach again the everlasting Gospel of Light and Salvation to the Sons and Daughters of Men) into the South Parts thereof; whom her Father receiv'd, and their Testimony, and kept Meetings at his House, one of the first in that County; and Educated his Daughter according to the way of Truth he had receiv'd, and

walk'd in till the time of his Deceaſe, which was in the Year,
1658. 1658. An Honeſt, Faithful and Upright Man, of good Report, and left a good Savour behind him; who on his Death-Bed Exhorted his Wife, *that as ſhe had believed in the Light, ſo ſhe ſhould walk in it*, wich accordingly ſhe did; and in the time of her Widowhood continued Meetings at her Houſe, as alſo the Care of her Daughter, with me her Son, and kept her at School, eſpecially to Read, in which ſhe was very ready to Learn, and could (and had) Read the Bible all over, very young. But in the time of the *Great Impriſonment*, after the
1660. Coming in of King *Charles* the Second, in the Year 1660. when ſo many Friends were ſent to Priſon, for Meeting, and Refuſing to take the *Oath of Allegiance*; of whom, there were about Eleven Score in the County of *Somerſet*. Among whom, our dear Mother, and her Maid, being ſent to Priſon to *Ivelcheſter*, for refuſing the Oath, &c. we were left that Winter, to the Care of our Grandfather *Evans*, who was no Friend; which yet had no Influence on my Siſter, to aleniate or eſtrange her from the *Love of the Truth*, or her *Innocency*. And in the
1661. Spring of the Year, 1661, our Mother, with about 200 more, being freed at *Chard* Aſſizes, by Judge *Foſter*, (who miſapplying the words of Chriſt to them, bid them *Go their way and Sin no more, leſt a worſe thing came upon them*) ſhe returned to her outward Habitation, and took us Home; and ſoon after Married a Sober Honeſt Man, and a Friend of the ſame Pariſh, one *Moſes Bryant*, who had been a Priſoner on the ſame Account; and was a Loving and Kind Husband to her, and Father-in-Law to us; who took Care of us, and Bred us up according to Truth, what in him lay; and continued Meetings at our Houſe as formerly.

And as for my dear Siſter, I can truly ſay of her, ſhe was a very Sober Innocent Maid, all along from her Childhood, as many know, and can bear witneſs; one that was never addicted to any bad Words or Actions, but very careful in what ſhe ſaid or did; not given to Play or Paſtime, as moſt Children commonly are in their Youthful Days, but was very Sober, and Religiouſly inclined from her Childhood, and much given to Reading and Meditation in her younger years; ſo that *Friends* of the *Miniſtry*, as *John Audland*, *John Camm*, *Tho. Briggs*, *Tho. Salthouſe*, and others who came to our Houſe in thoſe Days, took notice of her Sobriety, and delighted to hear her

her Read, and she loved them and their Company from a Child, and would apply that of the Prophet *Isaiah* to them, *How beautiful upon the Mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good Tidings, that publisheth Peace,—that saith unto Sion, thy God reigneth*. Learning Instructions of them while she was young, and would stay in Meetings of her own accord, when some other Children would rather be out at Play. She loved Retirement, and to be alone, to Meditate on the things of God, and Pray to him; and would often go with her Bible, or some Friend's Book into the Garden, or some other private Place by her self, when she had opportunity, instead of going to Play or Pastimes with other Children, and was seldom drawn into Company for Diversions, not minding the Sports and Recreations of the Times, tho' there was Musick and Dancing on the Green, just without our Gate, commonly on *First Days*; which she little regarded, unless to observe their Folly, and lament their Vanity. *She feared the Lord, and Remembred her Creator in the days of her Youth*, and her Mind was bent to Serve him in her Day, and greatest Care not to offend him, minding him above all, and seeking after the best things; desiring above all things, that it might be well with her, when Time should be no more; often saying, *that she did not matter what she went through here, so that her Soul might be saved in the End*, little valuing the World, or any thing in it, in Comparison of the Love and Favour of God; her Affections inclining to Heavenly Things, and her Soul lov'd and sought the Lord, *seeking first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness*, and leaving other things to be added. Isa. 52. 7.

She was not of a Stubborn Nature, but Meek, and Tender Hearted, a word doing more with her, than many Stripes would with some. She was not Light, and Wanton, but Grave and Serious, and Sober Minded in her Youth; not apt to Laugh, but rather to Weep; yet not Sour, but Affable, of few words, and Savoury, and loved Solitude and Silence to wait upon the Lord. She took great Delight in Reading the Holy Scriptures, and Friend's Books, which she thought most like them, especially the *New Testament*; and made it her *GREAT CONCERN* to Practice what she Read, and to walk accordingly; so as to please God, and find Peace with him, which was her chief desire. I speak what I know, and her Behaviour was Exemplary to all that knew her. All which good Inclina-

tions, and Piety in her younger years; and much more that might truly be ſaid of her, is to be attributed to the influence of the Grace and Spirit of God, that wrought in her ſo young, *to teach her to deny ungodlineſs, and worldly Luſts, and to live Soberly, Righteouſly and Godly in this preſent world.* And ſhe hath often told me how *near the Lord was to her when ſhe was a Child, and what freſh incomes of his Love ſhe enjoyed in her tender years; and if at any time ſhe was drawn from it, how ſhe could not reſt* [like the *Needle* (or *Point* of the *Compaſs*) touched with the *Loadſtone*] *till ſhe returned again to the Centre.*

1666. In the 9th Month, 1666. when ſhe was about Twelve years of Age, our dear Mother died, to our great Loſs, an Honeſt, Sober Woman; of whom, if I may ſay it, what I have often heard concerning others, may truly be applied to her; *that ſhe was a loving Wife, a tender Mother, a good Neighbour, a kind Friend, and very Charitable to the Poor*; of whom I could ſay much, if it would be taken from a Son. After whoſe Death, we continued with our Father-in-Law; and my Siſter was very helpful in bringing up her younger Brothers, which were Three, beſides my ſelf; being very Diligent and Serviceable, not Idle or Slothful in Buſineſs, but Careful and Induſtrious in her Place, denying her ſelf the Diverſions that others delighted in; and was *Loving, Kind, and Courteous, Gentle, and eaſie to be entreated*; not Proud, but Plain, yet Decent, Modeſt, Grave and Serious, growing up more and more in the fear of God, and in all her Carriage and Deportment as became the Truth, and was a good Example to us in her Life and Converſation; and would Reprove me, (being younger than her) if ſhe obſerved I ſpoke or did any thing amiſs; ſo that ſhe was an awe and check upon me, when I was any ways Light, or Wanton: And I muſt needs ſay, ſhe was a Pattern of Vertue, not of Vice, which ſhe was not any ways addicted to, but minding good things.

I would not be carried by my Affection to her, beyond the Truth; but muſt ſay, I hardly ever knew any one more Sober and Religiouſly inclined than ſhe was from her Childhood; as if ſhe never minded any thing elſe but that which was Good. And I believe I may ſay, was as unſpotted through the whole Courſe of her Life, with any defilement whatſoever, as to word or deed, as moſt in their *Natural State*, till they are *Renewed by Grace*, into their *firſt Eſtate of Purity and Innocency*, wherein they were Created.

And

And about the Sixteenth or Seventeen Year of her Age, the Lord began to work more powerfully in her, for the fitting her for himſelf, and the Work whereunto he afterward called her; *according to the working of his mighty power, whereby he is able to ſubdue all things unto himſelf*; working in her, according to his good pleaſure, the thing that was well pleaſing in his ſight; redeeming her Mind more and more from all Earthly and Tranſitory things, and purifying her by the operation of his Spirit, that ſhe might be *made a veſſel fit for the Maſter's uſe*. 1670. 1671.

But in the 4th Month, 1672. and Eighteenth year of her Age, our Father-in-Law dying, we were ſcattered abroad. I choſe *Edmond Beakes* of *Portſhead* to be my Guardian; but my Siſter, like *Ruth*, clave to her Mother-in-Law, (our Father-in-Laws Second Wife) an Honeſt Religious Woman alſo; with whom ſhe lived, till I returned to my own Houſe again, and went through great *Inward Exerciſes*; often in *Faſting*, and *Watching*, while the *Work of Truth* was upon her, like a *Wiſe Virgin* with her *Lamp trimmed*, waiting when her Lord would come. Often mourning before the Lord for the enjoyment of his preſence, if at any time he was pleaſed to withdraw, for the Trial of her Faith, tho' ſhe often *drank of the Brook by the way*, as ſhe ſaid, *through him, in whom all our freſh Springs are*. And was very diligent in Meetings, going often to *Briſtol*-Meeting Six Miles, and Home again on foot, for the ſake of Meetings, and Friends of the Miniſtry that uſed to frequent it in thoſe days; beſides the Meetings ſhe belonged to, which was uſually twice a Week, (and ſometimes oftner,) in the ſame Pariſh of *Nailſey*, where ſhe dwelt. So that by *waiting upon the Lord, ſhe renewed her ſtrength, and grew in Grace, and in the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt*, for whoſe ſake ſhe denied thoſe things that was contrary to his *pure will*, and *counted nothing dear to her that ſhe might win him, and be found in him, not having her own Righteouſneſs*, but be made *partaker* of his, which only *juſtifies* in the *ſight of God*, and is available to *Salvation*, as the ſame comes to be wrought by his Spirit in the Heart. And lived a very *Chaſt ſelf-denying Life*, as one that was devoted to the Lord, and given up to Serve him, in whatever he might require of her; whoſe Spirit wrought mightily in her, for the Accompliſhing the Work which he had begun in her, and bringing her into *the Glorious Liberty of the Sons and Daughters of God*. 1672.

And

And ſhe had pretty much *Exerciſe* and *working* in her *Mind*,
1674. about her appearing in a *Publick Teſtimony*: And one time eſpecially, being at a Meeting on a *Firſt Day*, where two Eminent Friends of the Miniſtry were, *viz.* *Henry Maſey*, and *Lawrence Steel*, (who was newly raiſed in a *Teſtimony*) the Power of *Truth* ſeized her in a more than ordinary manner, and wrought ſo upon her, that ſhe was under a very *Great Concern* in her Spirit, and went Home, and *Faſted ſeveral Days* while ſhe was under the Exerciſe of it, (till the Lord was pleaſed to raiſe her up into the *Dominion* of his own *Life*, and brought her into a *Reſignation* to his *Will*) and yet, as ſhe ſaid to me, ſhe felt no *Hunger*, neither did her *Spirits fail*, but her *Heart chear'd* her in that Day, and her Bones *flouriſhed as a green Bay-Tree*; yea in the time of *weakneſs*, ſhe was made *ſtrong*, through the *Power* of the *Lord*, and *vertue of his living Preſence*, which fill'd her Heart day by day, and *the dew lay all Night upon her Branch*. And the Lord *enlarged her Heart*, and *looſed her Tongue* to tell of his *wondrous works*; having *waited upon him in the way of his Judgments*, till it was *brought forth into Victory*, and known the Travel of her Soul accompliſhed, being *Redeemed with Judgment*, and having *waſhed her Garments, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, and found him whom her Soul loved*, greater in her, *than he that is in the world*; and having taſted of the goodneſs of the Lord, ſhe could do no leſs than ſpeak well of his *Great Name*.

And the Lord having *poured out of his Spirit upon her*, according to his Promiſe, that he would *pour out his Spirit upon*
Joel 2. *all Fleſh,—upon Servants, and Handmaids, and that Sons and Daughters ſhould Prophecy*, &c. which is fulfilled in our Day, of which ſhe was a Witneſs in her meaſure; and ſo giving up to his Requirings, her Mouth was ſoon after opened in a Meeting at *Backwell*, to declare of his Goodneſs, for which her Soul did *magnifie the Lord*, and her *Tongue did ſhew forth his praiſe*, who *gave her beauty for aſhes, the Oyl of Joy for Mourning, and the Garment of Praiſe, for the Spirit of Heavineſs*; and made her accepted in the beloved; and the *Cauſe* of Sorrow being removed, Joy and Gladneſs was known in her Habitation; ſo that her *Soul became as a watered Garden*, and *like a Spring of water, whoſe waters fail not*; and the Lord gave her *the Tongue of the Learned*, to ſpeak a *word in ſeaſon* to the *weary Soul*. She had a very *Living* and *Effectual Teſtimony*, to the *Comfort*

and

and *Encouragement* of many, which was well receiv'd, and of *Great Service* in the Country where she dwelt, *Labouring* about Home, not going far Abroad for some time; being very *Diligent* and *Retired*, minding her *Gift*, that she might *Grow* in it, as she did, day by day; Pressing and Exhorting all *Friends* as she had opportunity, to be Faithful to what the Lord had made known to them, that they might come to know *Bread in their own Houses, and Water in their own Cisterns*; and having tasted that the Lord was Gracious, she could not but Invite others to *come taste and see how good the Lord is*, that they might be made willing in the Day of his Power, and give up to him, and come to *pertake* with her of the same *precious Faith and Truth revealed in the inward parts, Christ in us the Hope of Glory.*

The beginning of the Third Month, 1675. she sent the following EPISTLE to Friends, *viz.* 1675.

An EPISTLE *for the Meeting at* Backwell, *the* 12th *of the* 3d *Month*, 1675.

" A Few words unto you that are here this Day Assembled
" together, as a *Salutation* of my *Love*, who am called
" *Mary Whiting.*

" Dear and well-beloved Friends, who are gathered and As-
" sembled this Day, in the Name and Fear of the Everlasting
" God, unto whom be the Glory of our Assemblies; *Grace,*
" *Mercy and Peace be multiplied upon you from God the Father,*
" *and from the Lord Jesus Christ, and from the Seven Spirits*
" *which are before his Throne, and from Jesus Christ who is the*
" *Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the*
" *Creation of God, unto him that loved us, and washed us from*
" *our Sins in his own Blood; unto him be Glory and Dominion*
" *for Ever, Amen.*

" *Behold he cometh with Clouds, and every Eye shall see him,*
" *and they also which pierced him, and all Kindreds of the Earth*
" *shall weep and wail because of him; even so,* Amen.

" Behold, saith he, *I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning*
" *and the Ending, the bright and Morning Star; I will give unto*
" *him that is a-thirst, he shall drink of the water of Life freely;*
" *and he that drinketh of the Water that Christ shall give him,*
" *shall never thirst again, but it shall be in him a Well of Water,*
" *springing up into Everlasting Life.*

My

" My *Friends*, I thought good to ſhew unto you the *Signs* " and *Wonders* that the *Moſt High God* hath wrought towards " me; to the End that ye may underſtand and know that there " is no *God* in all the *Earth*, like the *God* of *Iſrael*; and that " Believing in him, ye may come to *know* and *witneſs* thoſe " things *fulfilled* in your ſelves. Therefore I have ſent theſe " words unto you, that you may be ſatisfied concerning me, " and that your *Peace* may remain, and being *Diligent*, you " may daily witneſs your Growth in the *Precious Truth*, " which is *freſh* and *lively* in its own *Purity*, and all that are " retained in it, are kept alive by it. So let all come to wit- " neſs that you are *Branches of the true Vine*, which is *Chriſt*, " and to Grow by his *Vertue*, and bear *Cluſters* of the *Firſt* " *Fruits* in the *Spring* of the *acceptable Year*, that ſo by our " *Fruits* we may honour the *Lord*, for *herein is our Heavenly* " *Father Glorified, in that we bear much Fruit*. So *Live* and " *Walk* in the *Power* of the *Lord*, which *quickens* and makes " *alive*, and is alone able to keep *alive*; and as you keep to " the *Power*, it will preſerve you in *the New and Living way*. " So wax bold in this the Day of the Lord, *be Valiant for the* " *Truth upon Earth*, hold forth your *Teſtimony* among *the Sons* " *and Daughters of Men*, with whom you *Converſe* in *Words* " and *Converſation*; that ſo your *Lamb-like* Life may *Preach* " *Righteouſneſs* unto them, as *Noah* did in the *Evil World*, and " that *walking* in the *way* of the *Lord* blameleſs, holding forth " the *Image* of the *Cæleſtial* Beauty, all Men may be brought to " confeſs that we are *Children of the Lord*, becauſe we are " taught of him; and as we receive this Covering upon us, we " ſhall *adorn the Truth*, and Beautiful ſhall we be in the *Eyes* " of all Beholders, for many *Eyes* are upon us, beholding us " what we do, and watching us, to ſee whether or no we *walk* " according to the *Principle* held forth by us; which is *Per-* " *fection* and *Freedom from Sin*, which is alone by *Chriſt*, who " is the *Life*; for *the Law of the Spirit of Life in Chriſt Jeſus*, " *ſets us free from the Law of Sin and Death*, and ſo come to be " *free-born* by *Chriſt*, deſiring the *ſincere milk of the word*, that " we may *Grow* thereby from *Vertue* to *Vertue*, daily *encrea-* " *ſing* in the *Lord*; and the *Bleſſing of the Lord* will be *multi-* " *plied* upon you, which is the deſire of my Soul. Who am, a " *Friend* and *Witneſs* to the *Eternal Truth* of *God*, in which I " bid you Farewell.

Nailey, the 11th Day of the 3d Month, 1675. *MART WHITING.*

A POSTSCRIPT *to the fore-going Epiſtle.*

THE *Vertue* of the *Lord* will more and more abound,
As his own *Holy Arm* doth incompaſs and ſurround:
For as the Gentle *Dew* upon the *Laſting Hills*,
Even ſo the *Heavenly Dew* for evermore diſtills
Upon the *Tender Plants*, that are of *God's Right Hand*,
Who *round about his Table* every Day doth ſtand:
For whom there is *a Feaſt of Good Things, well Refin'd*,
To Eat the *Living Bread*, and Drink the *Living Wine*.
And in the *Fulneſs* of his *Precious Love*,
Return unto him, as it doth us Behove;
The *Everlaſting Praiſe*, and *High Renown*,
Whoſe Will and Pleaſure is to give to us a *Crown*
Of moſt *Infinite*, *Endleſs* and *Eternal Glo-ry*,
To *Reign* with him for Ever, as *Saints of the Moſt High*.
Who Largely doth in this his Day his *Precious Love* extend,
And of the *fulneſs* of the ſame, ſhall never be an End.
To him alone, whoſe *Right* it is, whoſe *Glory* did *Aſcend*,
Be all *Dominion*, *Praiſe* and *Honour*, World without an End.

M. W.

About this time (I being Returned from my *Guardians* aforeſaid, to my Houſe at *Nayſey*) ſhe came and dwelt with me, while ſhe continued in the Country, Labouring as I ſaid, moſtly at Home, excepting ſome Neighbouring Meetings, as *Briſtol*, &c. and a little into *Glouceſterſhire*, and ſo Home again; where ſhe was very Serviceable, and a Bleſſing to many, and a precious time of *Viſitation* it was to many People thereaway, and divers were *Convinced*; ſo that I may ſay it was *a Time of Love*, let it never ſlip out of my Remembrance. And tho' her Time was but ſhort, after the

Lord called her into his *Vineyard*, yet her *Work*, *Labour* and *Service* in the *Truth* was great, for the Proſperity of all in it, that they might come to *work out their own Salvation*, and *make their Calling and Election ſure*; and the Lord gave her *a Mouth and Wiſdom*, that ſhe might know how to Miniſter to the States of others, and made her Eloquent in his Hand, and taught her a *Pſalm of Praiſe*, by which ſhe hath often made *Melody* in her Heart to the Lord. And I know it was her real deſire to be found doing the will of God, and anſwer his Requirings in all things, that ſhe might be found approved in his ſight, and to ſpeak his words, and not her own. And ſhe had, I know, a great Care and Concern upon her Mind and Spirit for the Welfare and Proſperity of all Friends in the Truth; that all that was *Convinced* of it, might be Faithful to it, and ſo come to know *Salvation* by it, that they might be hid in the Day of the *Lord's Wrath*, when his *Indignation would paſs over, and be revealed againſt all the Workers of Iniquity*. And that others might come to receive the Truth, and be made *Partakers* of it, ſo as to find Peace with him, before the *Evil Day come*; often Exhorting People to *prize their Time*, and the *Day of their Viſitation, and ſeek the Lord while he is to be found, turn at his Reproof while he ſtrives with them, and waits to be Gracious, and Anſwer his Call in the Day of his Love, that his long-ſuffering, goodneſs and forbearance might lead them to Repentance*; for *the Spirit of the Lord will not always ſtrive with Men; and if they Rebell againſt it, and would not Anſwer when he calls, they might come to Call, and he would not Anſwer; for as in the outward, the Plant or Tree that doth not Budd, Bloſſom, or bear Fruit in the time of Spring or Summer, when the Sap ariſes, there is little hopes it will in the Fall, or Winter, when the Sap retires to the Root or Centre. So they that do not give up, while the Spirit of the Lord ſtrives with them, but reſiſt it, till it ceaſes ſtriving, may come at laſt to Lament, as ſome*
Jer. 8. 20. *in former days did, the Harveſt is paſt, the Summer is ended,*
Hoſ. 4. 17. *and we are not Saved.* And the Lord ſay of them, as he did of ſome of Old, *Ephraim is joined to Idols, let him alone;*
Pro. 9. 12. ſaying with the Wiſe Man, *If thou be Wiſe, thou ſhalt be Wiſe for thy ſelf; but if thou Scorneſt, thou alone ſhalt bear it.* Lamenting the States of ſuch as neglect their Time; and

of

of ſuch, as after they had known the Truth, fell from it, as in a worſe Condition than them that never knew it. Having a Great Concern for all, but eſpecially for the Profeſſors of the Truth, that they might walk worthy, and not fall ſhort, or loſe their Crowns; and therefore it was her earneſt deſire to the Lord, that all Friends might be preſerved Faithful to the End, to *finiſh their Courſe with joy*, that none that had begun well might fall ſhort of *God's Kingdom*, but *obtain the Crown of Life*, which is laid up in ſtore for all the Faithful. With much more that I could Rehearſe of her *Godly Care*, *Concern* and *Service* for the *Truth*, and ſuch as profeſs it, while ſhe was among us.

And thus having Labour'd in the Work of the Lord, for the Proſperity of *Zion*, and welfare of all her Inhabitants and Converts, for above half a Year in her own Country, ſhe had a Concern upon here, about the beginning of the Sixth Month, 1675. to leave her outward Habitation, and near and dear Relations and Friends, and to Travel Abroad in the *Work of the Lord*; and on a Firſt Day in the Meeting at *Clareham*, ſhe took her Leave of Friends, telling them, ſhe did not know whether ever ſhe might ſee their Faces any more (as indeed it hapned) deſiring their Prayers for her, (that ſhe might be preſerved to the End) as hers had been for them; and the latter end of that Week ſhe ſet forth on her Journey, I accompanying her to *Week* in *Glouceſterſhire*, Six Miles from *Briſtol*, and ſo left her to the Lord; where ſhe Travelled up and down in the Work of the Lord; and thence into *Wiltſhire*, and ſo into *Berkſhire*, (part of *Hampſhire*) *Oxfordſhire*, and *Buckinghamſhire*, and was well Accepted and Receiv'd among Friends in all Places where ſhe came, in thoſe Parts, of which ſhe kept a *Journal* of all the Meetings ſhe was at, and the diſtance one from another, amounting in the whole, to near Five Hundred Miles, before ſhe came to *London*. 1675.

And after ſhe had been out ſome time, ſhe ſent an *Epiſtle* to Friends of our *Meeting*, 'Containing Salutation of Love, 'and ſignifying her Welfare; *Exhorting* Friends to *Faithful-'neſs*, and to Live in *Love and Unity*, for the *Truth* was as 'Precious as ever, and the *Lord* was with his *People*, and the 'ſhout of a *King* was among them, as in the *Days of Old*, &c.

Which *Epiſtle* is Loſt; for leaving the Original behind me in the North, at the time of her Death, I could never Recover a Copy of it.

And when ſhe had been from Home about Three Months, ſhe ſent me a *Letter*, deſiring me to come to her, which I did, by way of *Oxford*; and met with her at *John White*'s, at *Meadle* in *Buckinghamſhire*, on a Firſt Day in the Evening, where ſhe had had a Meeting that Day, being the 21ſt of the 9th Month, and next Third Day ſhe had a Meeting at *Turvil-Heath*, with *Thomas Gilpin*; and on Fourth Day we went by *Henly*, to *Reading*, intending to have returned Home from thence; but ſtaying in Town that Night, to ſee *Friends* in Priſon (of whom there were many at that time) ſhe had a *Concern* came upon her to go to *London*, to *Viſit Friends* there, and ſo to *London* ſhe went, and I with her; in hopes of her Return Home along with me from thence. But after ſhe had been there about a Month, waiting Opportunities to Clear her ſelf of what lay upon her from the Lord, to Friends in and about that City, and to know his Mind further, what he might Require of her; deſiring, if it had been the will of God to Return Home, but the Lord ſhewed her then it muſt not be; but that ſhe muſt go further to Declare the Truth, where he ſhould lead her. And ſhe being given up to do his Will, and Anſwer his Requirings in all things which he might Require of her, we Parted; ſhe going Northward, and I Homeward, the beginning of the Eleventh Month, bringing with me her EPISTLE to *Friends*, which here follows.

To the Meetings at Clareham, Portſhead, *and* Walton.

" DEAR and Well-Beloved *Friends*, in and amongſt
" whom the Lord hath Appeared; and by the Ariſings
" and Operations of his Divine Power, which is Bleſſed for
" Evermore; he hath *gathered many from Darkneſs to Light,*
" *and from the Power of Satan, unto the Power of his dear*
" *Son.* Unto you a Living Spring is opened in my Heart,

" and

" and there is none that can ſenſibly *Read* me here, but thoſe " whoſe Dwelling is in the *Light*, and are *Born of the Immor-* " *tal Seed*, for in the Life, we feel Life, and we Anſwer the " Witneſs in each other. And here is pure unſpotted Love, " and here is Union and Fellowſhip, in which the World " cannot comprehend us, for *a Stranger cannot intermeddle* " *with our joy.*

" And here, my *Dear Friends*, let us all Dwell, Serving " one another in Love. Let the *Children of the Kingdom* " *Love one another*, and *Glorifie God* over all, that he may " delight to Reveal himſelf more and more unto us; for the " *Day of his great Salvation* is come, *Honour*, and *Power* and " *Might* be unto our God for ever. *Rejoyce* ye that *Love* " *the Lord*, who have *followed him thorow many Tribulations*; " and have *caſt down your Crowns at the feet of the Lamb*, " and have *Confeſſed* to his *Great Name*, who alone is *worthy* " to *Reign* over all.

" I ſay unto you my *dear Friends*, Rejoyce with me in " the Fellowſhip of that *Life*, which is *obtained through* " *Death and Sufferings*, for the *End Crowns all*; Bleſſed are " they that Labour, and do not Faint, for there is a *ſure* " *Reward* for the *Righteous*, and thoſe that continue in *well-* " *doing.* Therefore *work out your Salvation with fear and* " *trembling*, *Gird up the loins of your Minds*, *be Sober*, *and* " *Hope to the End*, for *God is nigh*, who will *Reward* every " one according to their *Deeds*; and *every Mans Work muſt* " *be tried by Fire*, *of what ſort it is*; and all that will not " *abide the fire*, muſt be *Conſumed* by it. *God Eternal is* " *ariſen to ſhake terribly the Earth*, and the *Pillars* thereof " ſhall *tremble*, that ſo that which cannot *be ſhaken*, may " *ſtand for ever.* Therefore let all thoſe who have been " *aſleep*, ſtand up to *Judgment*, for the *Day of the Lord* is " upon all *Fleſh*, and it will *overtake* many, as *a Theif in* " *the Night.* Therefore let none *deceive themſelves*, in put- " ting the *Day of the Lord afar off*, for that will *bring the* " *Seat of Violence near*; for the *Lord of Life and Glory* is " come *near* to *Try* the *Thoughts* of *Men* and *Women*, and he " *beholds* the *Slothful* and the *Careleſs*, who *Serve God ſlight-* " *ly*, and makes their *Profeſſion* a *Cloak* for their *Iniquity*, to " ſerve their own *Siniſter Ends*, and ſo *violate the Royal*

" *Law*

" *Law of God.* Let all conſider of theſe Things before it be " too late, and the *Voice* be *ſounded, He that's Wicked, let* " *him be Wicked ſtill.*

" Let the *Senſe* of theſe Things *Enter* into the *Hearts* of " all *Concerned* herein; and let all *ariſe* and be *doing*, whilſt " they have *a Day*, and *come forth* of that *Reſt* which is " *poluted*; and do not ſay in thy *Heart* I ſhall have *Peace* " and *Safety*, for thy *Deſtruction* will come *ſuddenly*, who- " ever thou art. Therefore before the *Loving Kindneſs* of " God is *ſhut up* in his ſore Diſpleaſure, *Repent*, and turn " to the *Lord*, if thou canſt *find a place*, before the *Sun* " paſs off thy *Dial.* Do not *Die* in a *Poluted Land*, leſt " thou be *Buried* with *Infamy*; but whilſt the *Love of God* " is towards thee, *retain* his *Love* in thy *Heart*, and it will " be well with thee, and thy *Soul* ſhall *Live*, and thou ſhalt " *prolong thy Days* in the *Land* which *the Lord* thy God *Gi-* " *veth* to be thy *Inheritance* for ever. Thou ſhalt not " *Sow*, and another *Reap*, but thou ſhalt long *Enjoy* the " Work of thy *Hands.* Therefore if thou *incline* thine *Ear* " to the *Voice* of the *Lord*, he will *hear* thee in thy *Diſtreſs*; " but if thou ſhalt *harden* thy *Heart*, he will *refuſe* to " hear thee in the *Day* of thy *Calamity*, and thy *Deſtru-* " *ction* will be upon thy own *Head* for ever. Thus in " Plainneſs of *Speech*, and in true Love to all *Souls* Con- " cerned, are theſe things Written, in *Obedience* to his *Power*, " who is *God* over all, *Bleſſed* for ever.

" And Oh! ye *Babes of Life*, ye *Children* of the *King-* " *dom*, who are *Born of the Seed Immortal*, and have *known* " the *waſhing of the Water of Regeneration*, and *Reconcilia-* " *tion* unto God, ye are *Bleſſed* for evermore. With you is " my Life *bound up*, in the *boſom of the Father's Love*, " where the *Sincere Milk of the word* is known, which *Nou-* " *riſhes* the *Babe Immortal.* Ye dear *Lambs* of the *True Fold*, " whoſe *Shepherd* is the *God of Iſrael.* My *Portion*, is your " *Portion*, and my *Feeding* is in the ſame *Paſture*, even in " the *Low Valley*, where the *Streams* runs, which *waters* the " whole *Flock of God.* Here is our deſired *Habitation*, here " let us *dwell* for ever. This is our *Reſt*, and we have not " another; here we have *Bread to Eat*, *which the World* " *knows not of.*

" So

" So, *Dear Friends*, as we have *Received Chriſt*, ſo let us " *walk* in him, not as the *World*, but as *becometh the Saints*, " and for the *Goſpel's ſake*, keep out of the *Evil of the* " *World*, and *walk* in the *pure unſpotted Life of Jeſus*; Let " your *Lights ſhine forth unto the World*, for God hath not " *Created* us to *Diſhonour*, but to *Honour* his *Holy Name*, " who hath *Created* us *a-new in Chriſt Jeſus*, that we might " *ſhew forth* his *Praiſe*; and that thorow our *Holy Converſa-* " *tion* many might be *gathered* to *the brightneſs of our Ri-* " *ſing*, and might come to *ſit down* with us in the *Light of* " *the Everlaſting Covenant*. *Ariſe and ſhine forth* in thy " *Beauty* oh *Sion*, for the *Glory of the Lord is ariſen upon* " *thee*, and ſhall *Cover the Earth*; tho' *Darkneſs covers* " *Egypts* Land, but *Light* ſhall be in the *Tents of Iſrael*.

" Therefore my *Dear Companions*, watch in the *Power of* " *the Lamb* againſt the *Sin* that would *eaſily beſet*; keep in " the *pure Chaſt Life*, ſtand over *Temptations*, and you will " feel *Dominion*, and in *Power Life* will be *raiſed*, which is " *ſtronger* than *Death*; and here in *Patience* you will *Over-* " *come*; for *Patience works Experience, and Experience Hope,* " *and Hope is as an Anchor to the Soul*. So in all things, " Dear Friends, *wait to feel Self Buried* in the *Spiritual* " *Death*; for if we *Suffer with Chriſt*, we ſhall *Reign with* " *him*; and ſuch as are *Riſen with him*, will *ſeek the things* " *that are Above, where Chriſt ſitteth at the Right Hand of* " *God*, who is *far aſcended* above all *Principalities* and *Pow-* " *ers*, that he may *fill all things*; and of his *Divine fulneſs* " Thouſands have *Received*, who can ſpeak forth to his " *Glory*, and to the *Praiſe* of his *Name*; that which we have " *felt*, *taſted* and *handled* of the word of Life, and *can ſet* " *to their Seals that God is true*.

" And ſo, *Dear Friends*, in the *deep Love of God*, where- " with my *Soul* is *affected*, and my *Cup doth overflow*; " I have given forth thoſe *words* in the *Living Spring* of " the *Eternal Power*; and I alſo ſignifie unto you, that I " know not when I ſhall ſee your Faces; for it was my " *Deſire* to have ſeen you e're this time. And in order " thereunto, I came with ſpeed to the Town of *Reading*; " determining in my Mind, as far as I felt freedom to Re- " turn; but in the interval of Time, the *Voice* of the *Lord*

" ran

" ran thorow me on this wise. **Thou shalt not Return** " **into thy own Country, but thou shalt Return to** " London. **Do not Reason or Consult in thy Mind,** " **Obey my Voice, and Go; Lo I have sent thee.** " Wherefore in *Obedience* to the *Lord I Gave up* my *Life* to " his *Service*, not minding the *Present Difficulty*, but keep- " ing my *Eye to the Power*, which is *able to carry* through " all, I came in the *Cross* to the City of *London*; and the " *Lord* was with me, and gave me *Good Success*; and I *Re-* " *signed* in my *Mind* not to depart out of the *City*, until I " felt the same *Eternal Arm* which brought me in, to lead " me forth again, whether soever he pleaseth.

" So when I had waited a Month, the *Word of the Lord* " came unto me, saying; **Thou shalt go and Preach the** " **Gospel, and Proclaim the Day of Glad Tidings, of** " **Redemption and Sanctification to all People whether** " **I shall send thee; fear not, for I am with thee, and** " **my Power shall accompany thee to the End, with** " **Signs following.** And I said, *Lord, whether shall I go?* " and he Answered, **Whithersoever I shall Lead thee.** " So in *Obedience* to the *Lord* I am Given up to Answer his " *Requirings*. And when I *felt* the *Counsel* of the *Lord* " *towards* me, to pass into the *North*, it came upon me thus " to Write: And so having Answered the *Requirings* of the " *Lord* on this wise, I Rest for Ever a *Lover of the Truth*; " desiring the *God* of *Peace* to be with you, and to *Bless*, " *Keep* and *Preserve* you, and to *Establish* you in *every* " *Good Word and Work*, that you may be *a People* to his " *Praise*, to his *Honour*, and to his *Glory*, who is *God* over " all, *Blessed* for Ever, and for Evermore.

London, the 6th Day of the 11th Month, 1675. } *Mary Whiting.*

She *Wrote* also several LETTERS to Particular *Friends*, (besides my Self) some of which I have by me (well worth the Reading) but they being more *Private*, and not of so *General a Concern*, are here omitted.

From

From *London* ſhe went to *Ware*, ſo to *Hartford*, and through *Hartfordſhire*, *Bedfordſhire*, *Huntingtonſhire*; and from *Huntington* ſhe ſent me a *Letter*, the 14th of the 12th Month, deſiring me to Meet her at *Daniel Wills*'s at *Northampton*, whither ſhe intended, and came; but before I could order my Buſineſs to go, and came thither, ſhe was paſſed on pretty far *Northward*, through *Leiceſterſhire*, *Nottinghamſhire*, *Darbyſhire*, *Yorkſhire*, into *Biſhoprick*. I followed after her, from *Northampton*, to *Leiceſter*, *Nottingham*, *Mansfield*, *Cheſterfield*, *Wakefield*, *Leeds*, *Maſham*, (where *Robert Lodge* Dwelt) *North-Allerton*, &c. (hearing of her at ſeveral Places as I paſſed along) till I came to *Norton*, near *Stockton*, in the County of *Durham*, where I met with her, (the 1ſt of the 2d Month, 1676.) My Coming to her was very *Providential*; 1676.
for when I came, ſhe was taken Ill at a *Friend*'s Houſe; but at my coming to her, ſhe was ſomewhat Revived to ſee me, and walked out in the *Orchard* with me next Day (being a fine Day) and gave me an account of many things, and diſcloſed her Mind to me, to my great *Comfort* and *Satisfaction*. But a Fear ſtruck me concerning her, and to my great Sorrow, ſhe grew worſe again, and *took her Bed* next Day, but ſate up two or three Days after.

When ſhe firſt took her Bed, ſhe ſaid to me, *She hoped ſhe ſhould die:* I asked her, *whether ſhe thought ſhe ſhould?* ſhe ſaid, *the Will of the Lord be done, ſhe had Served him Faithfully in her Day, and was Reſigned to his will; deſiring my well-being, and Exhorting me to be Faithful to the Lord; and not to be Troubled or Caſt down at any thing, however it might be; and advizing me to be diligent in Meetings; and particularly, to frequent* Briſtol-*Meetings as much as I could, for that it would be an Enlivening or Reviving to me* (as indeed I have often found it) Saying, *Thou mayeſt be Saved, but thou wilt meet with Exerciſes* (which I have found true many ways, but the Lord hath upheld under all) for *through many Tribulations we muſt enter into the Kingdom.* She *expreſſed much Love to her other Brothers, eſpecially the Eldeſt*; Saying, *there was a tender thing in him from his Childhood, and deſired he might not loſe it, or be hurried out of it through the Incumbrances of the world*; expreſſing *her Love to all Friends* (deſiring their Preſervation) and *Concern* for all *People*, which ſhe always much deſired the *Salvation* of. With much more than can now well be Remembred.

But her Diſtemper (which was a *Feavor*) Encreaſing upon her, ſhe grew *weaker* and *weaker*; and the Day before ſhe Died, ſhe lay very ſtill and quiet, as if ſhe was *Retired* to her *Centre*, and *waiting* for her *Diſolution*; and tho' ſhe had her Senſes and Speech freſh and quick in her, ſhe did not ſay much. And about the 7th Hour in the Evening, that Day Week I came to her (being Seventh Day) ſhe quietly Departed this Life, to my great *Grief* and *Exerciſe*, and laid down her Head *in peace with the Lord*, I am verily perſwaded; and doubt not but ſhe is at *Reſt* with the *Lord*, in the *Heavenly Kingdom*, according to her deſire in her Life time, where *all Tears are wiped away, and where the weary are at reſt.* And indeed ſhe never deſired *Long Life*, but rather to be *prepared to Die*, which was her *Great Concern*, ſeeking a *better Country*, and *a City that hath Foundations, whoſe Builder and Maker is God.* Having an *Eye to the Recompence of Reward* which is laid up in ſtore for all the *Faithful*; and which far *tranſcends* all the *Tranſitory Enjoyments* of this preſent Time, which I doubt not but ſhe *Enjoys*, as the *Fruit* of her *Labours*, and *Faithfulneſs* to the *Lord*, whom ſhe *ſought and ſerved* from her *Childhood*, and walked in *Sincerity*, *Humility*, *Sobriety*, and the *Fear of the Lord*, to the end of her Days.

For whom, I could *Lament*, in Remembrance of what ſhe was to me many ways while we were together; and the many *precious Opportunities* we have enjoyed, and when we have been walking by our ſelves, Diſcourſing of the *Things of God*, how ſhe hath opened the *Myſteries of the Kingdom* unto me, to my *Great Comfort*, and ſtrengthning my *Faith* and *Hope*, even to this very day; but now I am deprived of her, and the benefit of her Company, which Time will not wear out of my Remembrance. But I muſt not give way to *Sorrow*, or *Mourn as them that are without Hope*, Believing we ſhall Live together in the *Heavenly Kingdom*, as I abide Faithful to the Lord; deſiring I may follow her Steps, who hath left a good Savour behind her.

I could ſay much more concerning her, if needful; but can add nothing to her, being fixed in her *Eternal Manſion*; only for the *Encouragement* of others, that do and may hereafter *Fear the Lord*, is this Written, and for *a Memorial of her in Time to come.* Oh! that it might be an inducement

ment to all that have any Desires after the Lord, to follow her *Example*, in seeking him in their early Days, that they may Reap the Benefit thereof in Elder Years; that *Living* in the *Fear of God*, they may come to *Die in his Favour*, and so it may be well with them, when Time in this World shall be no more; as was her Desire; and as no doubt it is with her, and that she hath Received *the Crown of Life*, which is the *Reward* of the Faithful, and which is laid up for all *that love the Appearance* of our *Lord Jesus Christ*, in Sincerity and Truth.

She Departed this Life, the 8th of the 2d Month, 1676. in the Two and Twentieth Year of her Age, and was Buried the 10th of the same, in Friend's Burying-Ground, in the said Parish of *Norton*: Accompanied to her Grave by many Friends, and Neighbours thereabouts. After which, I Returned Home with a heavy Heart for the Loss of her; but the Lord was very near me, and good to me. I Lived Retired at my own House for some time, but soon after, my Troubles began with the *Priest*, in the *Bishop's Court*, for **Tythes**, which terminated in my *Imprisonment* (the 28th of the 4th Month, 1679.) on the Writ *De Excommunicato Capiendo*; of which, in another Place. And so Recommending all to the *Grace of God*, with my own Soul, and what I have Written to his Witness, I shall here Conclude this, and Rest,

A *Friend* and *Lover* of the *Truth*, and them that walk therein, and a *Sufferer* for the same.

JOHN WHITING.

Ivelchester Prison, where I *Suffer* outward *Bonds*, under that *Great Oppression* of *Tythes*, the 8th of the 8th Month, 1681.

POSTSCRIPT.

☞ *The foresaid Account of my Dear Sister, was written in the Time of my Imprisonment at* Ivelchester; *but by an accidental Omission, hath lain by for some Years; but coming lately to Hand, it was thought meet to be Published; hoping it may be of Service to such as Read it in the Fear of God; to whose perusual I Recommend it.* J. W.

FINIS.